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Cross-Claimant
MASSACHUSETTS MUTUAL LIFE
INSURANCE COMPANY

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, WESTERN DIVISION

CAPITAL ONE, N.A., as Trustee of the
BETA INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYER
WELFARE BENEFIT PLAN AND
TRUST, and POINTE BENEFIT
CONSULTANTS, LLC as
Administrator/Recordkeeper of the BETA
INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYER WELFARE
BENEFIT PLAN AND TRUST,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

LAWRENCE SAKS, M.D., JEANNE
SAKS, and MASSACHUSETTS
MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE
COMPANY,

Defendants.

MASSACHUSETTS MUTUAL LIFE
INSURANCE COMPANY,

Counter-Claimant,

vs.

CAPITAL ONE, N.A., as Trustee of the
BETA INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYER
WELFARE BENEFIT PLAN AND
TRUST,

Counter-Defendant.

Case No. CV13-06411 SJO (PSWx)

**MASSACHUSETTS MUTUAL
LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY'S
CROSS-COMPLAINT AGAINST
LAWRENCE SAKS AND JEANNE
SAKS**

[Filed Concurrently with
Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance
Company's Answer to Plaintiffs'
Complaint]

Complaint Filed: August 30, 2013

1)
2 MASSACHUSETTS MUTUAL LIFE)
3 INSURANCE COMPANY,)
4 Cross-Claimant,)
5 vs.)
6 LAWRENCE SAKS, M.D. and JEANNE)
7 SAKS,)
8 Cross-Defendants.)

9 Defendant, Counter-Claimant, and Cross-Claimant Massachusetts Mutual Life
10 Insurance Company ("MassMutual") hereby files this Cross-Complaint against
11 defendants and cross-defendants Lawrence Saks and Jeanne Saks, and alleges as
12 follows:

13 **PARTIES**

14 1. MassMutual was and now is, an insurance company existing under the
15 laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with its principal place of business
16 located in Springfield, Massachusetts.

17 2. MassMutual is duly qualified to engage in, and is engaging in, the
18 business of insurance in the State of California.

19 3. MassMutual is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges that
20 defendant and cross-defendant Lawrence Saks is, and at all relevant times was, an
21 individual residing in Los Angeles County, California.

22 4. MassMutual is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges that
23 defendant and cross-defendant Jeanne Saks is, and at all relevant times was, an
24 individual residing in Los Angeles County, California.

25 5. MassMutual is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges that
26 Lawrence Saks and Jeanne Saks are, and at all relevant times were, citizens of the
27 State of California.

ALLEGATIONS

6. On or about December 3, 1998, Lawrence Saks, a licensed plastic surgeon, completed a written application for a life insurance policy from MassMutual.

7. In said application, Lawrence Saks stated that his occupation was a “General Partner” and that his occupational duties consisted of “Surgery.”

8. Pursuant to the aforementioned application, and in reliance on statements made therein, on or about December 17, 1998, MassMutual issued a life insurance policy, Policy No. 11564044 (“Policy”), insuring the life of Lawrence Saks.

9. A true and correct copy of the Policy is attached hereto as Exhibit “A” and incorporated herein.¹

10. At the time of issuance, both the owner and beneficiary of the Policy were North Fork Bancorporation, Inc. (“NFB”), as trustee of the Beta Plan and Trust Dated August 24, 1994.

11. Pursuant to a request from NFB as owner of the Policy, and pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Policy, on or about August 18, 2004, the owner and beneficiary of the Policy were changed to NFB, as trustee of the Beta Individual Employer Welfare Benefit Plan and Trust Dated January 1, 2003.

12. MassMutual is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges that prior to the date this action was filed, plaintiff and counter-defendant Capital One, N.A. became the trustee of the Beta Individual Employer Welfare Benefit Plan and Trust Dated January 1, 2003, and thereby became the owner and beneficiary of the Policy in its capacity as trustee.

¹ Exhibit A does not include a copy of the Policy application in order to protect the privacy of the insured.

13. The face amount of the Policy is \$4,000,000.00.

14. The annual premium for the Policy is \$201,530.00.

15. The Policy includes a Waiver of Premium Rider that provides, in part,
as follows:

After the Insured has been totally disabled for six months
and all the conditions of this rider are met, we will waive
premiums for this policy, including all riders this policy
has.

16. The Waiver of Premium Rider defines “totally disabled” as follows:

Total disability is an incapacity of the Insured that:

- Is caused by sickness or injury; and
- Begins while this rider and this policy are in full force;
and
- For the first 24 months of any period of total disability,
prevents the Insured from performing substantially all
the duties of the Insured’s occupation; and
- After total disability has continued for 24 months,
prevents the Insured from engaging in any occupation
the Insured is qualified to perform. For the first 24
months of any period of total disability, the Insured's
occupation is the Insured's usual work, employment,
business, or profession at the time total disability
began. After total disability has continued for 24
months, any occupation the Insured is qualified to
perform means any work, employment, business, or
profession that the Insured is reasonably qualified to do
based on education, training, or experience.

17. On or about October 18, 2003, Lawrence Saks submitted a claim to

1 MassMutual under the Policy's Waiver of Premium Rider, claiming that he was
2 totally disabled from his occupation as a plastic surgeon and had been totally
3 disabled since April 15, 2003.

4 18. Upon receiving Lawrence Saks' claim that he was totally disabled,
5 MassMutual accepted said claim and began to waive premiums for the Policy as of
6 October 15, 2003.

7 19. MassMutual continued to waive premiums for the Policy until the claim
8 was denied by letter dated June 15, 2007.

9 20. On March 21, 2008, Capital One, Lawrence Saks, and MassMutual
10 entered into a tolling agreement under which they agreed to maintain the status quo
11 between them as of that date, including maintaining their rights to assert and
12 maintain any and all claims that could have been asserted or maintained as of March
13 21, 2008.

14 21. MassMutual is informed and believes and on that basis alleges that
15 Jeanne Saks currently asserts an ownership interest in the Policy by way of a marital
16 settlement agreement entered into by Lawrence Saks and Jeanne Saks.

17 **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

18 **(Misrepresentation)**

19 **(Against Lawrence Saks)**

20 22. MassMutual realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations in
21 paragraphs 1 through 21 as though fully set forth.

22 23. Since October, 2003, Lawrence Saks has repeatedly and continuously
23 represented to MassMutual that he is totally disabled.

24 24. On a claim form dated October 18, 2003, Lawrence Saks stated that he
25 had performed no work since April 15, 2003.

26 25. On a disability progress report form dated November 17, 2004,
27 Lawrence Saks stated that he was not engaged in any work activity.

1 26. On August 29, 2005, in an interview with MassMutual's investigator,
2 Lawrence Saks stated that he was unable to work as a plastic surgeon.

3 27. On a disability progress report form dated June 24, 2006, Lawrence
4 Saks stated that he was not engaged in any work activity.

5 28. On November 20, 2006, in a telephone call with MassMutual's claims
6 examiner, Lawrence Saks stated that he had stopped performing surgeries over four
7 years ago.

8 29. MassMutual is informed and believes and on that basis alleges that,
9 contrary to Lawrence Saks' representations, Lawrence Saks was not totally disabled
10 as defined by the Policy and applicable law during all or some of the period he
11 claimed to be totally disabled.

12 30. MassMutual is informed and believes and on that basis alleges that
13 during all or some of the period Lawrence Saks claimed to be totally disabled, he in
14 fact continued to perform his own occupation and/or other occupations, and was
15 performing surgery.

16 31. The aforesaid representations by Lawrence Saks were made for the
17 purpose of inducing reliance thereon by MassMutual.

18 32. MassMutual justifiably relied on the aforesaid representations and in
19 reliance thereon waived the premiums for the Policy beginning October 15, 2003.

20 33. The aforesaid representations were false and untrue in that Lawrence
21 Saks was not totally disabled as defined by the Policy and applicable law during all
22 or some of the period from April 15, 2003 to the present, and was able to and did
23 perform the material duties of his occupation, including surgery, with reasonable
24 continuity, during the relevant time period.

25 34. As a result of MassMutual's waiving premiums for the Policy,
26 MassMutual has been damaged in an amount well in excess of \$75,000, the exact
27 amount to be proven at trial according to proof.

28

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Unjust Enrichment)

(Against Lawrence Saks)

35. MassMutual realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 34 as though fully set forth.

36. MassMutual waived premiums for the Policy beginning in October 2003, due to Lawrence Saks' misrepresentations, omissions, concealment of material facts, and other acts, as more fully set forth above.

37. As a result of this waiver of premiums, Lawrence Saks has been unjustly enriched in an amount well in excess of \$75,000, the exact amount to be proven at trial according to proof and according to the provisions of the Policy.

THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Declaratory Relief)

(Against All Cross-Defendants)

38. MassMutual realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 37 as though fully set forth.

39. MassMutual contends that because of Lawrence Saks' misrepresentations, omissions, concealment of material facts, and other acts, Lawrence Saks was not entitled to a waiver of premiums under the terms and conditions of the Policy.

40. An actual controversy currently exists between MassMutual and Lawrence Saks concerning their respective rights and duties under the Policy, including whether Lawrence Saks was entitled to a waiver of premiums under the terms and conditions of the Policy.

41. An actual controversy currently exists between MassMutual and Jeanne Saks concerning their respective rights and duties under the Policy, including whether Jeanne Saks has an ownership interest in the Policy.

42. A declaration is necessary and appropriate at this time so that the parties may ascertain their respective rights and duties under the Policy, and determine the value of the Policy.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, MassMutual prays for judgment against cross-defendants as follows:

As to the First Claim for Relief, Against Cross-Defendant Lawrence Saks Only:

1. For damages in an amount well in excess of \$75,000, the exact amount to be proven at trial, according to proof;

As to the Second Claim for Relief, Against Cross-Defendant Lawrence Saks Only:

2. For damages in an amount well in excess of \$75,000, the exact amount to be proven at trial, according to proof;

As to the Third Claim for Relief, Against All Cross-Defendants:

3. For an Order setting forth the parties' respective rights and duties under Policy No. 11564044;

4. For an Order declaring that Saks was not entitled to a waiver of premiums under the terms and conditions of Policy No. 11564044;

As to All Claims for Relief, Against All Cross-Defendants:

5. For an Order that MassMutual recover its costs and attorneys' fees; and

6. For such further relief as the Court may deem just and equitable.

Dated: October 31, 2013

MESERVE, MUMPER & HUGHES LLP
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By: //s/Jason A. James

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Claimant, and Cross-Claimant
MASSACHUSETTS MUTUAL
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